

liquid crystal display panel 39d, the diffusion sheet 39f, and the light guiding plate 39g are integrated and the periphery thereof is inserted into the bezel metal frame 39c. This insertion allows the front side of the periphery of the display unit of the liquid crystal panel 39d to be held by the bezel metal frame 39c.

[0031] The bezel metal frame 39c, into which the liquid crystal holder 39e, the diffusion sheet 39f, and the light guiding plate 39g are fitted and integrated, has its periphery inserted into the reel glass base 39b, and is supported by the reel glass base 39b such that the front of the display unit of the liquid crystal panel 39d has an opening. Since the reel glass base 39b is attached to the machine front panel 38 with the screws 39j, the transparent acryl plate 39a is pressure bonded to the front of the reel glass base 39b and occludes the above-described opening of the front of the display unit of the liquid crystal panel 39d.

[0032] The rear holder 39h is made of a white resin plate and holds, on the reel glass base 39b from behind, the bezel metal frame 39c, the liquid crystal holder 39e holding the liquid crystal panel 39d, the diffusion sheet 39f, and the light guiding plate 39g, which are supported by the reel glass base 39b. The rear holder 39h also functions as a reflection plate for reflecting the light, emitted from the cold-cathode tubes 40a on the light guiding plate 39d, to the side of the liquid crystal panel 39d. The antistatic sheet 39i, being transparent, is adhered to the rear side of the rear holder 39h with double-sided tapes and covers the rear side of the openings 5c, 6c, and 7c formed in the rear holder 39h.

[0033] FIG. 3(b) is a partial enlarged view of a marginal portion of the opening 5c, 6c, 7c of the rear holder 39h, which is circumscribed by a dashed circle shown in FIG. 3(a). A marginal corner portion of the rear side of the opening 5c, 6c, 7c of the rear holder 39h has been chipped away. The antistatic sheet 39i is adhered to this chipped portion.

[0034] FIG. 5 shows symbol sequences drawn on the outer periphery of the reels 2, 3, and 4. Each symbol sequence comprises 21 arranged symbols of a plurality of kinds. The symbol sequences correspond to a first reel 2, a second reel 3, and a third reel 4, respectively, from the left in the figure. Each symbol is assigned a code number among "1" to "21". Each reel 2, 3, 4 is rotationally driven such that its symbol sequence moves downward in the figure.

[0035] There are seven kinds of symbols: "Red 7" representing a digit shaded with mesh lines; "Blue 7" representing a digit shaded with lines sloping down to the left; "BAR" including two lines of alphabetic letters BAR arranged vertically; "Watermelon" consisting of a picture of a watermelon; "Bell" consisting of a picture of a bell; "Plum" consisting of a picture of a plum; and "Cherry" consisting of a picture of cherries.

[0036] Each reel 2-4 is configured as a rotatable reel unit as shown in FIG. 6, and attached to a frame 41 via a bracket 42. Each reel 2-4 comprises a reel drum 43 having a reel band 44 affixed on its outer periphery. The symbol sequence described above is drawn on the outer periphery of the reel band 44. Each bracket 42 is provided with a stepping motor 45. The reels 2-4 rotate when the stepping motors 45 are driven.

[0037] Each reel 2-4 has a structure shown in FIG. 7(a). Note that in this figure, like parts as in FIG. 6 are marked

with like reference letters and are not described herein. A lamp case 46 is provided inside the reel drum 43 behind the reel band 44. Back lamps 47a, 47b, and 47c are installed in three compartments of the lamp case 46, respectively. Each of these back lamps 47a-47c is made of a white LED (light emitting diode) having a great amount of light emission, mounted on a board 48 as shown in FIG. 7(b). The board 48 is in turn attached to the rear side of the lamp case 46. Furthermore, a photosensor 49 is attached to the bracket 42. The photosensor 49 detects a shield plate 50 provided on the reel drum 43 passing by the photosensor 49 in association with the rotating of the reel drum 43.

[0038] Each back lamp 47a-47c is controllably lighted up by the lamp drive circuit described below. Each of the lighted back lamps 47a-47c separately illuminates three symbols positioned in front of the back lamp 47 among the symbols drawn on the reel band 44, and the three symbols are projected on each display window 5-7. In this embodiment, since the back lamps 47a-47c have a great amount of light emission, they also illuminate the liquid crystal panel 39d in front thereof. Furthermore, since the back lamps 47a-47c are made of white LEDs, the colors of the symbols drawn on the reel band 44 and of the effect displayed on the liquid crystal panel 39d are viewed in a manner faithful to the original colors.

[0039] FIG. 8 shows a winning symbol combination table, which has been predetermined in the slot machine 1 in accordance with this embodiment, and shown on the payout display unit 36 at the front top of the slot machine 1. In an ordinary game, if a combination of symbols "Red 7"-"Red 7"-"Red 7", a combination of symbols "Blue 7"-"Blue 7"-"Blue 7", or a combination of symbols "BAR"-"BAR"-"BAR" lines up on any activated pay line, fifteen medals are paid out and then an RB (regular bonus) game is executed.

[0040] Further, in an ordinary game, if three identical symbols of "Watermelon" or "Bell" line up on any activated pay line, a small prize is won, and fifteen medals are paid out, respectively. Similarly, in an ordinary game, if a combination of symbols "Bell"-"Bell"-"Red 7", a combination of symbols "Bell"-"Bell"-"Blue 7", or a combination of symbols "Bell"-"Bell"-"BAR" occurs, a small prize is also won, and ten medals are paid out, respectively.

[0041] Furthermore, in an ordinary game, if three identical "Plum" symbols occurs on any activated pay line, then a replay is won, and one can play another game without inserting any medal, although no medal is paid out. In addition, this combination of three "Plum" symbols is also a combination of a JAC game winning occurrence in a JAC game during an RB game. The JAC game refers to a game of trying to get a combination of "Plum"-"Plum"-"Plum" on the center pay line L1 in an RB game.

[0042] Moreover, in an ordinary game, if one symbol "Cherry" stops on one activated pay line for the first reel 3, a small prize is won and two medals are paid out, which is referred to as "two medals cherry". When three medals have been bet, if one symbol "Cherry" stops on two activated pay lines, four medals are paid out, which is referred to as "four medals cherry".

[0043] FIGS. 9 and 10 show circuit configurations arranged on a main control board 61 and a sub-control board 62 for controlling the game processing operation of the slot machine 1 described above.